

2-29-2008

# The Hilltop 2-29-2008

Hilltop Staff

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**WEATHER**

43  
35  
Tomorrow:  
43  
27

Established  
**1924**

**Friday  
Notebook**

**BREAKING NEWS**

**LIONEL GEORGE YOUKAM, 14, OF GERMAN-TOWN, MD. WAS FOUND DEAD IN THE BASEMENT OF HIS HOME THURSDAY, ACCORDING TO NBC4.COM**

**CAMPUS**

**WANT TO GET A BETTER SENSE OF WHICH CANDIDATE SHOULD GET YOUR VOTE FOR GRADUATE TRUSTEE? TURN TO CAMPUS AND SEE WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY.**

**SPORTS**

**THE HILLTOP SAT DOWN FOR AN EXCLUSIVE Q&A WITH WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM ROOKIE ALESYN MCCALL.**

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PAGE 6

# Financially Strapped Fisk University Ends NCAA Athletics

BY SHAUNTEL LOWE  
*Black College Wire*

Clad in his Greek letters, Fisk University senior David Hill would make his way to the annual homecoming basketball game, on the lookout for his fraternity brothers, old and young, of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. They might embrace or just say hello, the older Omegas doling out pieces of wisdom to the younger frats. But not anymore.

"Usually everyone has a homecoming football game. We just have a basketball game. And now, we're not even going to have that," Hill said.

Amid a deepening financial crisis, Fisk administrators recently announced that they

were ending all of the university's NCAA athletic programs after this year and will develop a system of intramural sports in their place.

According to a statement by Provost Kofi Lomotey, released Feb. 25, the Nashville university views the move as an opportunity to involve more students in sports.

But many current students, alumni and faculty see the loss of the sports program as potentially devastating to student life on campus.

"It decreases the camaraderie between students now that you don't have a function or an event where students get together. It decreases school pride. What are you rooting for, other than your academics?" said Hill, who

is majoring in physics with plans for a career in astronomy.

Howard junior psychology major Derrick Price believes sports provide opportunities for students.

"I'm curious to know what will happen to the players on scholarship," Price said. "Some people have no other way to pay for their educations."

The move is just the latest strategic shift for the university, which has been struggling to gain traction in its race to raise funds before it runs out of money.

Financial struggle is nothing new or uncommon at Fisk, known for the historic fundraising efforts of its student chorus, the Fisk Jubilee Singers, who traveled throughout the United States and

Europe in the early 1870s to raise money for the school. The group is honored with Jubilee Hall on the Fisk campus.

But this period of struggle for the university has attracted nationwide attention as Fisk has battled in court over the right to sell, or at this point simply keep, the 101-piece Stieglitz collection of modern art given to the university in 1949 by renowned artist Georgia O'Keeffe, wife of photographer Alfred Stieglitz.

The university has tried to sell pieces of the collection and proposed a \$30 million deal to share the collection with the Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, founded by Wal-Mart heiress Alice L. Walton, according to The Associated Press. In court earlier

this month, the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, N.M., heir of the O'Keeffe estate, argued that the agreement between O'Keeffe and Fisk forbids selling or sharing any portion of the collection and Nashville Chancellor Ellen Hobbes Lyle ruled that this proposition violated the wishes of O'Keeffe.

Now the O'Keeffe museum is trying to reclaim the entire collection on the grounds that Fisk violated the terms of its agreement with O'Keeffe and has forfeited its rights to the collection. Fisk and the museum made closing arguments in that case before Lyle on Feb. 19 and are currently awaiting a ruling that could take up to 30 days.

Meanwhile, Fisk is

scrambling to get a hold on its financial situation through fundraising and budget cuts. University Spokesperson Ken West said the university annually spends \$263, 075 to support the athletic program while only generating \$10,000 in revenue from an NCAA grant for participating in certain games. West said none of the school's approximately 100 athletes are on scholarships related to their participation in the NCAA Division III sports. He said the university expects the intramural program to cost \$60,000 annually.

While West said no revenue is generated from ticket sales or concessions, JoVan Kearse,

> See **FISK**, Page 3

## Panel Questions Need for Reform, Revolution



Panelists and audience members with varied beliefs discussed the state of the black community Thursday during the event "Where Do We Go from Here?"

BY JAMISHA PURDY  
*Contributing Writer*

Last year, protestors took to the picket lines of America in response to the treatment of six black teenagers in Jena, La. Later dubbed the Jena '6,' this case was highlighted across America's civil rights groups, ultimately leading to the reduction of charges and the ultimate dismissal of some of the cases.

More than a thousand Howard University students poured into Cramton Auditorium to rally for the cause, but months later some students wonder, what's next for the state of black Americans. A multi-sponsored discussion yesterday focused on two of many possible routes African Americans could take: reform or revolution.

"This is not merely a conversation to be had and then forgotten," said Ray Baker, a senior broadcast journalism major and discussion moderator. "Instead, this is an opportunity for us to seriously flush out ideas, to

seek — in earnest — what our strategies are, what our goals are, and what is the best and most effective way to reach that place."

The panel-style discussion, titled "Where Do We Go from Here?" included Howard seniors from a broad spectrum of beliefs. Each panelist was asked whether they believed the black community should push for reform or revolution.

Michael Varner, a political science major and the president of the College Republicans, said the question of reform or revolution depends on the type of change.

"I think that the focus needs to be more on what the African-American community can do for itself," Varner said, "versus what particular legislation and the government can do for black people."

To balance the political spectrum, the president of Howard's College Democrats, Devaughn Ward, also gave his beliefs as to what changes needed to happen in the black commu-

nity. Ward said it will take more than civil and social changes and that there needs to be economic reform.

"I generally believe that the measures we have in place do generally work," said Ward, a legal communications major. "I think we have a solid foundation in which we can work from to address some of the changes that we are trying to get in the African-American community."

Chigozie Onyema, an African-American studies major, had a different idea on the route black people should take.

Onyema, who refers to himself as a "Pan-Africanist," said "it is impossible for us to become equal under a capitalist institution." Onyema supports revolution.

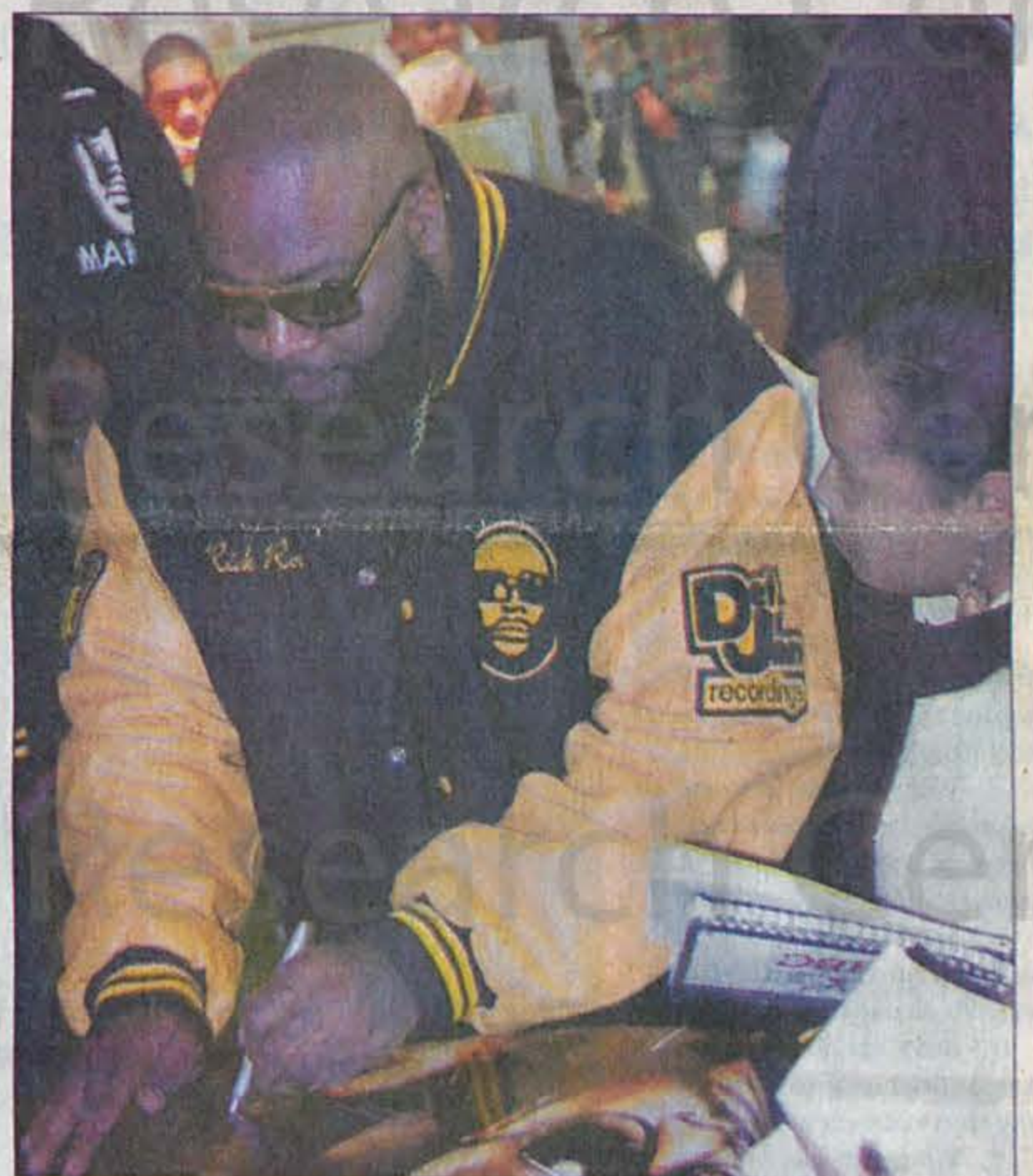
Comments about whether the current capitalist system is beneficial to black people led to an eruption of comments from both panelists and members of the audience. The discussion then turned into a debate between panel members regarding whether black people benefit more under a socialist or capitalist economy.

Audience members didn't sit quietly, but challenged panel members' beliefs.

Baker encouraged the audience members to take the discussion to another level.

"There is something, in some way you can involve yourself," Baker said. "Let this have been a way for you to find how you can involve yourself in a serious and progressive movement. Please, please, please, don't let this fall on deaf ears. All of this, all of our conversation, is for nothing if we don't take action."

The discussion was sponsored by the Kwame Ture Society, Political and Educational Action Committee (PEAC), Howard University Student Association (HUSA), NAACP, Howard Chapter, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Alpha Chapter and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Alpha Chapter.



Miami rapper Rick Ross visited the Punchout Thursday to promote his sophomore album, "Trilla," which includes collaborations with R. Kelly, Lil Wayne and T-Pain.

## Rick Ross Keeps it 'Trill' in the Punchout

BY JADA F. SMITH  
*Staff Writer*

Students lined up in the Punchout around 4 p.m. Thursday as rapper Rick Ross arrived to sign autographs and take pictures with fans and students alike. Hosted by WHBC and Def Jam Records, Ross made the cameo to promote his new album, "Trilla," which will be released on Island Def Jam on March 11.

Ross said fans can simply expect "better," from his sophomore album compared to his debut CD, "Port of Mi-

ami." With a variety of guest appearances, Ross hopes to bring more attention to the South and prepare everyone for "The movement."

"On the album, we have Trick Daddy, [Lil] Wayne, T-Pain, R. Kelly and other artists and producers that I worked with," Ross said. "We startin' a movement. Flo-Rida and Briscoe come hard. We're all a part of this movement of artists. It even includes Cash Money."

The movement Ross referred

> See **ROSS**, Page 3

## Forum Addresses Dorm Renovation Concerns

BY ALEESA MANN  
*Staff Writer*

Thursday's "Put It On Blast: Residence Life" was the fourth installment of HUSA's "Put It On Blast" series.

Students have already tackled issues concerning So-dexho, Campus Police and parking and shuttle services and have

now presented their concerns about living on campus.

"We wanted to give students the opportunity to directly suggest improvements to students services that officers can make," HUSA President Marcus Ware said. "So we asked that they come with their concerns but also come with suggestions."

Jessica Bailey, a junior

management major and HUSA Director of Student Activities, said, "I feel like Residence Life is one of those big issues that students really want to talk about and voice their opinions about. Changes have definitely been made through 'Put It On Blast' and they are improving our campus."

Students in attendance

raised questions on topics such as study rooms, wireless Internet and tuition increases.

Travonnie Neblett, a senior marketing major who resides in the Towers, asked about acquiring appropriate accommodations in the study rooms.

"We don't have study rooms, we have rooms with a table," Neblett said. "It's difficult

to study with a group of people [in a room] that's not conducive to studying."

Charles Gibbs, Dean of Residence Life, responded by saying, "There are study rooms in there and there was furniture in there, but what has happened is people have removed those items into their personal rooms, and if people start taking things, I'm

not rushing to put them back."

Gibbs also responded to questions about the shaky wireless reception in some of the dorms.

"At one point, we conducted a study in the Quad and we found routers [in the dormitory]," Gibbs said. "We also

> See **BLAST**, Page 3



# ASA, the Mecca to Take a Trip Back to Africa on the Runway

BY ERICA ROBINSON  
Contributing Writer

Stunting modern-day trends in their annual fashion show as part of DC Fashion Week, the African Students Association (ASA) attempts to break away from the stereotypical African apparel, modeling clothes as casual as denim shorts and sneakers to elegant gowns and high heels.

Nicole Manuel, a junior philosophy major, is one of the models in the show. This is her third year participating in the event.

"It's interesting every single year," Manuel said. "Prepare to be amazed."

Designers from all around the world, including Toronto, Ghana, Nigeria and America, will make their presence known at the fashion show.

According to Ikechukwu Onyewuenyi, a senior psychology major and ASA public relations officer who is in charge of the promotion for the event, the designers bridged the gap with African fabric and modern styles.

"It's fun as a model to try on the different clothes," Manuel said.

Eniola Hundeyin, a designer for the clothing label DAVID, will be among the many designers.

According to her blog, Hundeyin's clothing line was founded in 2007 as a line for women who love to stay stylish, sophisticated, versatile and, most importantly, timeless.

She is traveling from Toronto to showcase her designs. Other designers include Obsidian, Idia Design, Simply for you, KNAF Couture and Lshandi.

"It's going to be really different from any other show," said Esther Sonariwo, a senior economics major. "It's pretty diverse."

The models will be of different heights, shapes and colors, doing away with the typical model image.

"The models are very good," Onyewuenyi said. "You can expect something fresh."

Since the ASA fashion show is a part of DC Fashion Week, in which designers debut their latest fashions, the show

will provide coverage for both the models and designers.

ASA is combining fashion, music, dance and awareness.

There will be a dance performance from the ASA dance team and the dance team Focus will also display their talent on the stage.

R&B and Afro-pop singer Tolumide will also perform. Her music reflects her African heritage through soulful gospel and poetic sounds.

The major focus of the show is to create awareness about the Malaria epidemic affecting Africa.

Proceeds will go to Nothing But Nets, a campaign that focuses on creating awareness about the disease. This group will be on campus prior to the show.

Those who make a donation of a least \$150 will be rewarded with gift bags.

"It's all and all a good night to be present," Manuel said.

ASA will also be holding an African business conference today in Blackburn from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Designers like Lshandi, KNAF Couture and Idia Designs will display their work in Cramton Auditorium as part of DC Fashion Week.



## Diary of a Mad Black Fashionisto

BY GEORGE LANDER  
Contributing Columnist

"Good morn-ting" or "Good Evenings!" Honey, whenever you have so graciously decided to read my little column...thank you and "Hel-ler!" I have a confession: being the Black Fashionisto is a very hard job...that's right, being "FIERCE" is not as easy as it looks.

Yes, I get to attend fashion shows and industry events and hobnob with the "who's who" of entertainers (Fix ya face baby, hating is not a good look). But even that's hard work...SOMETIMES! (Laughs)

First I have to kiss enough [expletive] to actually get on the guest list. Next comes the planning phase: I break down who's gonna be there, who I need to be seen with and who I need to avoid (Security isn't always the best). Then comes my favorite part...shopping (I do this myself). Lastly, appointments are made with the "GLAM TEAM." They'll cover all the finishing touches such as hair, facial, eye brows, manicure, pedicure (Ewww! If you dare wear an open toe shoe without one), etc.

At events, I split my time between networking, schmoozing and attempting to be photographed. (If you aren't photographed...You AREN'T official...more on that later.)

Then, disaster strikes. A singer to go unnamed ("Dip it low, bring it up slow")...Hell she shoulda left it. Anyway! "Ms. Thang" — still to go unnamed (SIDEBAR: Did you ever see "Love Don't Cost A Thing") is standing before me in a dress that was clearly over-priced and understyled. Now I have tact (Shut up... I do), so I don't say anything. But there is one problem...MY FACE. Baby, I can't hide nothin' on my face (pray for me... I'm a work in progress).

PROBLEM: Now, because I can't control my face, there is a less than flattering picture circulating of me giving "Ms. Thang" that dreaded "boo-boo" face (You know the "boo-boo" face). Well I would never want this to happen to you, so I have compiled a list of PHOTOGENIC TIPS. Your Facebook pictures will never be the same again.

**Wear Colors That Complement You** - Certain colors balance certain skin tones, while others just DON'T. Play around and find colors that work for you.

**Lighting** - Mariah Carey was right. You have to find your light if you want a good picture. Avoid direct lighting and heavy flashes. (TIP: most people look better when there is soft or pink lighting.)

**Learn YOUR Best Angle** - This takes practice, but a "classic" is to arrange your body 3/4 toward the camera with one foot in front of the other and one shoulder closer to the camera than the other (FABULOUS!).

**Avoid a Double Chin in Photos** - DIET! (Ha! I'm just playin' my thick Bison sista). Position yourself so that the camera is a little above your eye level, or put one hand under your chin as though you're resting your head on your hand.

**RELAX** - Smile and don't stress or over-think the photo. We live in the age of digital cameras. Just make sure any unflattering shots are erased! And if that doesn't work, Photoshop the mess outta that picture honey (Ha!).

I hope these tips will help you avoid "bad" pictures in the future, or at least keep you out of a sticky situation (the dress was ugly). Now break out that camera and get to snappin'... MUAH!

-Jorge

If you have any comments, suggestions, or PICTURE TO SHARE. E-mail me at [george\\_v\\_jorge@yahoo.com](mailto:george_v_jorge@yahoo.com)

# Oprah Winfrey to Get TV Network in Merger

## Creation of OWN Network marks another in a series in media, business endeavors

BY JESSICA MCCORVEY  
Contributing Writer

"You go girl!" sophomore chemistry major Erin Jackson shouted when she learned Oprah Winfrey had recently inked a deal with Discovery Communications to create her own television network.

With happiness gleaming from her eyes, Jackson was full of joy for an idol who has appealed to millions around the world.

Winfrey has become a household name, touching the hearts of viewers from all backgrounds from coast to coast.

She is recognized not only as a humanitarian, but also a talented business woman.

But some wonder if Winfrey is beginning to monopolize the entertainment industry.

Winfrey began her stream of success as the host of "AM Chicago," a morning talk show, in 1983.

From there, she began to broadcast "The Oprah Winfrey Show" nationally on Sept. 8, 1986. It has become the highest-rated talk show in history.

She then entered the broader media industry. Winfrey launched *O, The Oprah Magazine* a Web site and Harpo Productions.

She also began a radio show called "Oprah and Friends" featured exclusively on XM Radio and has started Oprah's Angel Network, a charity-based organization.

Winfrey's most recent business venture is a new primetime show on ABC called "Oprah's Big Give."

The show will focus on individuals who compete to change the lives of complete strangers in the most creative ways they can.

The show will air March 2 and feature celebrities like Jennifer Aniston, John Travolta and Jada Pinkett-Smith.

But what may be causing the most controversy is Winfrey's merger with the Discovery Health Network.

"I think she's taking advantage of the opportunities she has," said Said Gaida, a sophomore business management major attending Hofstra University in New York. "Some people may say she's doing too much, but I think she's doing what she needs to."



Photo courtesy of msnbmedia4.com

Media mogul Oprah Winfrey's latest endeavors include the OWN Network, ABC's "Oprah's Big Give" and a all-girls school in South Africa.

According to the official Oprah Winfrey Web site, "In an unprecedented deal, Oprah Winfrey and Discovery Communications announced plans to create OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network. The new multi-platform media venture will be designed to entertain, inform and inspire people to live their best lives. OWN will debut in 2009 in more than 70 million homes, on what is currently the Discovery Health Channel. The venture will also include the award-winning digital platform, Oprah.com."

Lawrence Kaggwa, Ph.D., a professor of journalism in the John H. Johnson School of Communications, gave his opinion on Winfrey's new merger with Discovery Health.

"I don't feel Oprah is monopolizing the media," Kaggwa said. "She should be celebrated. She is giving hope to all the American children who are in poor situations who want to better their lives."

Kaggwa continued, "It is amazing how a woman of a poor background has become a super-

star. I think this is truly an inspirational story."

Zaqrura Frierson, a freshman business management major, believes there may be too much "Oprah-mania."

"It's too much Oprah," Frierson said. "I am happy for her and I do support her, but I feel that it just may be too much."

Lattaria Whitehead, a freshman political science major, agreed with Kaggwa's statement.

"Oprah has what everyone secretly wants, and if given the opportunity, they would be doing the same thing," Whitehead said. "People need to stop hating."

Winfrey has established herself as a woman who will not be slowing down any time soon.

Her bank account continues to build with the expansion of her companies, and her charity work follows closely in pursuit.

Whether people support Oprah's business ideas or believe she is controlling too much, it is clear that Oprah has knocked down doors that have been slammed shut for years.

## Weekly Entertainment Briefs

### T.I. Works With Federal Prosecutors on Plea Bargains

Atlanta rapper T.I., real name Clifford Joseph Harris, was offered a 15-year sentence for his weapons charges. According to Google News link, Harris was originally arrested in October hours prior to his set appearance on the BET Hip Hop Awards. T.I. was arrested for being in possession of two silencers and three machine guns, and his attorneys are now negotiating reducing the sentence.

### Kelis Set to Release Greatest Hits Album

"Kelis — The Hits" is due to be released March 11 and will be a 14-track album. According to allhiphop.com, many of the tracks are collaborations with other artists, including "In Public" with Nas, "Millionaire" with Andre 3000 and "Got Your Money" with Ol' Dirty Bastard. Her debut album, "Kaleidoscope," was released in 1999.

### New Law Being Proposed Honors Dr. Donda West

Assemblywoman Amina Carter announced that she was proposing a "Donda West Law" in the state of California. According to blackvoices.com, the law would ensure that patients are checked and deemed healthy enough to endure the potential rigors of general anesthesia. The 58-year-old mother of rapper Kanye West died last November from complications from receiving a tummy tuck. Similar legislation is being pushed in Illinois, where Donda and Kanye lived for many years.

## COME WRITE FOR LIFE & STYLE!

## BUDGET MEETINGS

## MONDAYS @ 7 P.M.

## P- LEVEL OF THE HOWARD PLAZA WEST TOWER



# NCAA Athletics Program Ends at Fisk University

continued from FRONT, FISK

Fisk's sports information director and head cheerleading coach, said non-students are charged \$5 to attend basketball games. Kearsse said there is often miscommunication between the administration and athletics.

It appears that miscommunication is at the heart of many of the university's fiscal and organizational problems. Kearsse said on Feb. 18, the coaches and directors in the athletic department found out the school would no longer be participating in the

NCAA Division III.

"It was really just a surprise to the majority of us," she said. The evening of Feb. 19, the university held a townhall "family" meeting and announced the decision.

"As they were telling about the fundraising efforts, they kind of slipped in that the athletic department would end June 30 as far as participating in NCAA," she said. "Most of us just assume that we won't have a job. We just realize it's over."

Kearsse said many people don't understand how important

athletics are on a college campus, particularly at Fisk, where there isn't much to do.

"Athletics is the only means of entertainment at Fisk. My cheerleaders were very, very excited. They were looking forward to next year," she said.

Keshea Morris, a junior and member of the women's basketball team, said she was upset and waiting to see what was going to come next for sports on the campus. She said she found out the news from a text message during Bible study. Like many other students and alumni, Morris wonders

when the financial problems for the university are going to end.

"They said our school was always in debt. Why are these people hired if it's still the same problem with the finances? Where does it end? Where is the money going?" she asked.

Hill, the senior physics student, said he also wonders what is happening to all the money students pay in tuition and fees.

"We feel that we pay a lot more money than we're supposed to. We're not getting what we paid for," he said.

Hill said he also ques-

tions the university's profession of operating as a family when students had no say in the changes.

"I'm sure you would consult your family about what they think they should do in a family crisis before you make an actual decision," he said.

Some student athletes at Howard University would primarily be concerned with their scholarships if they were in the same boat as students at Fisk.

Freshman biology major Deandre Henderson, who runs track for Howard, said, "Since I am an athlete currently on schol-

arship, my first question would be 'What happens to my scholarship?' Would I have to pay out of pocket for tuition? Honestly, I would probably transfer."

Additional reporting by Deontay Morris

Want more? Go to  
The Hilltop Online  
for additional  
reporting.

## Rick Ross Keeps it 'Trill' at Howard

continued from FRONT, ROSS

to is a part of the theme for his album.

"It's for everybody that's grindin' and everybody that's in the struggle," he said.

Ross said the music he makes is for people who understand the "trill" state of mind because, "We keep it trill in the south."

Students gathered to fill the Punchout to see the rapper with hopes of hearing more from the new album.

"He's cool, I like his style...it's real original," said Terrance Pope, a sophomore comput-

er engineering major. "I heard a few of his new songs and it sounds good. His last album was really good and I hope this next one will be too."

Aside from hearing the musical aspects of Ross' rapper persona, others were more interested in the flashy nature of his appearance. Junior public relations major Tyler Acker believes Ross' image is what stands out more than anything.

"I like him because he's a boss," Acker said. "He's a real brother. He has on a chain with gold frames that match the gold frames on his face."

## Students Put ResLife on Blast

continued from FRONT, BLAST

found students hook up this third component to their computer system that knocks out wings of transmission [preventing wireless reception]."

Students concerned about the cost of the improvements currently being made to the dormitory were pleased to hear the changes were not likely to affect tuition costs.

"When I talk about massive bedroom and furniture replacement, I don't see that that would affect a tuition increase," Gibbs said. "It is all done out of my operational budget."

Other suggestions were made by concerned students about installing more

washing machines in Slowe Hall, extending weight room hours and positioning a nurse within each dorm.

"Students give suggestions and then we make a list of all the suggestion made, and then we work with the officers to see which ones are plausible," Ware said.

Aside from addressing issues from the students, Gibbs also spoke about progress being made in the dorms, such as new furniture and carpentry.

He talked about installing more washing machines in renovations to individual dorms, such as the new study room in Cook Hall, plans for a fully air conditioned Quad, and a possible exercise room in the Annex. Plans to build a

new dorm complex were also discussed.

"Plans for a future residence hall [are being made for] a men's living and learning complex, bringing academics to the residence hall," Gibbs said. "I do believe that that's going to happen. My objective in that process would be not to lose Drew Hall."

Gibbs said instead, he hopes to increase university enrollment of black males with the new complex that will be specifically tailored to large singles for upperclassmen and graduate students.

As for campus wide initiatives, Residence Life is currently devising plans to go green.

"For us, going green is

not only about the supplies that we use and the disinfectants that we use," Gibbs said. "It's a lifestyle change of how we can really help the environment and improve our living conditions."

Gibbs also spoke of Res Quick Fix, a provision for streamlining the current process of making maintenance requests by putting the process online to eliminate the paperwork.

"My responsibility as the dean of Residence Life is to always communicate with residents," Gibbs said. "Any time that we can continue to improve our services, then I'm all for it."

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

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HOWARD UNIVERSITY DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE

## Resident 2008-2009 Assistant in university residence halls Positions

**Qualifications:** Undergraduate - Sophomore, Junior, Senior - 2.5 (GPA) average at the time of application submission. Residence Hall occupant for a minimum of one academic year, a record of active participation and positive leadership in hall programs and activities.

**Responsibilities:** R.A.s. work under the supervision of a Community Director, working a minimum of fifteen (15) hours per week, assisting with hall openings and closings, working with 40 to 60 students occupying a floor, assisting with hall programs and activities, attending all meetings called by the Community Director, and assisting with administrative responsibilities.

**Employment:** Is for one year and includes a taxable stipend of \$1,250.00, plus free room rent for the academic year. Reappointment for second year is possible and contingent on a successful evaluation, but requires a new application.

**We Need Good People Interested in Self  
Development and Helping Others**

Secure application online at  
[www.howard.edu/howardlife/residence-life](http://www.howard.edu/howardlife/residence-life)  
complete and submit to the:

Office of Residence Life  
2400 4th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20059

On or before March 7, 2008



APPLY NOW





## HUSA CAM

### Imani Cheers

BY SHIVONNE FOSTER  
Staff Writer

Running under the platform "Strong Leadership, Accountability and a Commitment to Excellence," Imani Cheers said she will lobby for a new evaluation system that challenges administration and staff to serve students.

"I am addressing three main points: the lack of financial and academic resources, safety, security and health care, and increased local and global community involvement," she said.

Cheers, who is from Largo, Md., is a first year doctoral student in mass communication and media studies. She recently finished her masters in African-American studies and research in May 2007.

"My current and past involvement in advocacy for graduate and professional students shows in the last two and a half years what I've been able to accomplish," she said.

Cheers is the program coordinator of the Graduate Student Assembly, a Graduate/Professional Student Representative for the Safety and Security Taskforce and is a member of *The Hilltop* Policy Board.

This year, she is working with

current Howard University Student Association (HUSA) President Marcus Ware to establish a book endowment to increase the academic resources in three libraries.

"That goes with the point of my platform in commitment to excellence," Cheers said.

Cheers said she is focused on all graduate and professional students.

"I'm from the graduate school, but I'm concerned about all my colleagues," she said. "I was out there protesting with the School of Divinity students last year when they didn't have a dean."

Cheers added that she is also concerned with the lack of up-to-date equipment for students in health sciences, saying, "The School of Medicine lecture halls look like they haven't been updated since 1972. That's ridiculous."

From her community involvement outside the university, Cheers believes she will be able to shift graduate students' attention toward local community involvement.

"As a graduate trustee, I can continue these initiatives," she said. "What makes me different is my work ethic and my history of commitment to excellence. That's evident in what I've been able to do."

## ON THE SPOT!

"More and more people choose to participate in student government because they want to become more active and network. A lot of people want to become more involved on Howard campus, not only as students, but as better citizens of society."

- Anastacia M.  
sophomore broadcast journalism



"Maybe there's an influx of the population year after year to more smaller..."

### Shea Drake

BY ANNIE WHITE  
Editorial Assistant

Shea Drake, a second year student in the School of Divinity, is campaigning to be Howard's next graduate trustee.

Her peers' encouragement and her experience as president of the School of Divinity's Student Government Association, has helped her take this step of faith.

Drake's platform is "Focused, Fearless and Faithful." She said Howard needs to review its ABCs.

If elected, Drake said she will help hold the administration accountable in the same way they hold students accountable. She also intends to build on our path and inspire innovative ideas. Finally, she plans to open the lines of communication between students and the administration. She wants the organizations to start with "answering the phone, returning calls and filing paperwork," she said.

"In 2008 we shouldn't be operating the way we are," Drake said of some of Howard's antiquated buildings, obsolete equipment and lagging technology. "It is not preparing us to go into the global com-

munity with the right work ethic."

Drake said she has rallied to address concerns of the students regarding the School of Divinity's facilities, including a building that is currently leaking. She said \$40 million is going to be placed on next year's budget solely to fix the buildings.

The students have told her she is running a "universal campaign," she said. She said other graduate and professional students are able to relate to the issues Divinity students face and the issues she has battled as president.

Drake commended current graduate trustee Dennis Rogers for making some of the graduate and professional school more visible.

"The School of Divinity is not commonly called out," she said.

Drake said she views herself as the underdog in the race. She is running against four other candidates. Although she admits it is challenging, she appreciates the support given by her peers.

"People have been very encouraging," she said. "They have offered suggestions and have helped on the campaign."

"I heard that certain people did a great job with their positions and so the next people want to carry the torch. As a transfer student, I think that people are seeing [that] this university needs a lot of changes."

- Tara...  
senior psychology



"At the end of the day, people don't really want to enter a position and you've been seen before..."

Traver Higgins - Campus Editor

### How to Vote

1. Read up on the candidates in *The Hilltop*.
2. Wait until March 6.
3. Log on to *BisonWeb*.
4. Go to the Elections page.
5. Choose your favorite candidates.
6. Feel wonderful for letting your voice be heard.

### Daniel





# PAIGN 2008

## Graduate Trustee Profiles

year, there are more  
es and candidates for  
HUSA executive and  
tee positions than  
year. How would you  
unt for the difference?



want  
l's  
to be  
ebane,  
malism

it has something to do with an  
of new Howard students. It seems  
population is growing consistently  
ter year. That may contribute  
e competitive candidates for a  
amount of positions."

- James Duncan,  
freshman nutritional science

eat  
ew  
are  
lot of  
Davis,  
chology

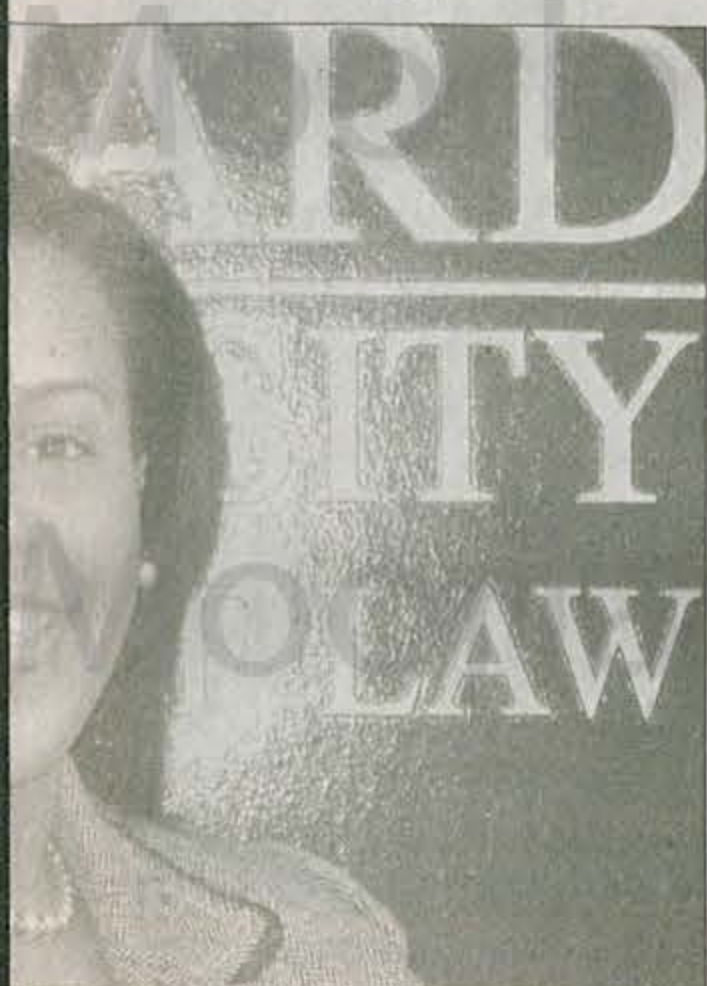


end of the day, I feel like more  
are trying to be popular and they  
realize how much work it's going  
il, because they've never had  
ns in student government before,  
u're seeing names you've never  
efore."

- Rachael Allen-Stephens,  
senior political science

Compiled by Shivonne Foster, Staff Writer

## le Perry



Danielle Perry, a  
student in the Howard  
University School of  
Law and Graduate  
Student Assembly  
representative, is  
a candidate in the  
race for the graduate  
trustee position.

Perry received her  
undergraduate degree  
in political science  
from Howard.

Perry was unavailable  
for an interview with  
The Hilltop Thursday.

Photo Courtesy of Ebony Glover

## Howard Cheng



BY TRAVER RIGGINS  
Campus Editor

Howard Cheng, a second year law school student from Los Angeles, thinks Howard deserves a leader committed to Howard, "a global landmark and training ground for future leaders."

"I have the most well rounded skill set and experience to hit the ground running once I win the position," Cheng said.

The graduate trustee hopeful has two years of experience running his own business and sits on the advisory boards of two international companies, one in Jamaica and one in Hong Kong.

He is also a class representative for the law school Student Bar Association.

Cheng found a mentor, a Howard University Law School alumnus, while he studied at the University of Southern California as an undergraduate. His mentor, Olu Orange, served as graduate trustee before he graduated in 1998.

Cheng has a three-part agenda that he updates as new concerns arise.

The latest part was added two days ago as some students shared concerns with him in conversation.

Photo Courtesy of Howard Cheng

The university fiscal calendar starts July 1 each year, which leaves some of the budgeting incomplete until August, leaving students little plan for scholarships, fellowships and job placement.

"I want to advocate to change that fiscal calendar to a period that gives the school more time to appropriate funding to various departments," Cheng said.

He also wants to clear up misconceptions that can only be explained by someone close to university operations.

"There are a lot of myths among the graduate student population about what the university does and doesn't do," Cheng said.

Cheng also wants to address the misunderstandings the graduate students have about the university, which he said he would do by first investigating student concerns. Cheng said he would then use HUSA and the Graduate Student Assembly to disseminate the information.

Cheng said that not only is the relationship between the graduate population and the university a concern, but also the relationship among the graduate population.

"We have a lot to gain from each other by networking now," he said.

## Muteba Mukendi



BY ANNIE WHITE  
Editorial Assistant

Muteba Mukendi is campaigning to be Howard's graduate trustee.

Mukendi, who received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, said, "this is not the way it is supposed to be."

"These are issues I have never dealt with at any other schools," he said. "And no one should accept the way that things are."

The second year business student said he believes students are receiving a low return on their investment.

"We are spending a lot of money," he said. "And the quality of service is insane." Mukendi is calling for a "New Howard, Now!" He believes it is urgent for Howard to return to its mission.

"Howard is a research-oriented university, but we are not practicing that," he said.

His competitors are campaigning for the facilities to be remodeled, but he said his platform differs because he addresses the "how."

He said in order to obtain funding, "we must upgrade our research centers." He spoke of one of

Howard's research centers that only receives \$1 million annually in funding to operate.

"That is almost nothing compared to the amount of research they do," he said. "That is barely enough to cover their expenses, like paying the staff."

Mukendi proceeded to benchmark Howard against top-tier research centers, such as Harvard University, Georgetown University and George Washington University. He said Howard's endowment is significantly lower than theirs. He said Howard's research level has fallen over the years.

"Fortune 500 companies come to our campus and they see old, rotten buildings," he said. "The bathrooms don't have soap." He said they do not like the look of the university, yet we expect them to spend money here.

Mukendi said he will encourage members of the board of trustees to use key metrics to evaluate the programs the school launches.

He also wants to place students at the center of the university. He plans to implement customer service training for university administrators because, he said, "they need to understand the students' perspective."

## Past Graduate Trustees

2007 - 2008: Dennis Rogers

2006 - 2007: Dedan Bruner

2005 - 2006: Sellano Simmons

2004 - 2005: Miesha Darrrough

2003 - 2004: Charles Coleman



# Little Student Support Doesn't Stop Howard Bowlers

BY MAKULA DUNBAR  
Contributing Writer

Three strikes and you're out! This may be true in the good 'ol game of baseball, or in a scarier situation, mean something different for members of Howard University's women's bowling team.

For one, it means that you're a pretty good bowler, but due to tournament locations and the hype that surrounds the football and basketball teams, Howard doesn't get to showcase its best bowlers.

Although the bowling alley adjacent to Blackburn's game room isn't always fully functional, the bowling team is. The Howard University women's bowling team competes in regular MEAC, ECAC and NCAA tournaments.

"I'm a relatively new bowler, but I love the sport and it's something I take very seriously," said sophomore film major McCall, a first year bowler on Howard's team. "Because I'm the newest, I'm still learning about the game."

In terms of receiving little support from the student body, McCall said, "I think it's highly discouraging. We're just like the other teams at school."

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) and Delaware State are the toughest teams to beat, according to McCall. UMES just won the championship in the NCAA mid-winter classic, while Delaware State has continuously been ranked among the top 10 by the National Tenpin Coaching Association.

"Dealing with tough competition is hard sometimes," McCall said. "All we can really do is encourage our own team by cheering on our players, and that's exactly what we do."

Like all sports teams at Howard, the bowling team follows a regimen during the year. The sport even has a longer "season" than any other sport

on campus.

"Monday and Tuesday we're off campus," McCall said. "Wednesday and Thursday we practice in Blackburn and do cardio in Burr. On the weekends, we have tournaments."

The majority of the tournaments are hosted at other schools.

Despite the lack of awareness and overall school spirit, the bowling team has more difficulties to worry about.

Captain and senior accounting major Sicilia Baldwin has high hopes for the team upon her departure, but she would like to see some improvement while she's still here.

When the team competes in tournaments, it's obvious that competing schools invest in their facilities, and Baldwin would like Howard's appearance to be up to par when they host tournaments.

"I would like us to have the same advantages as far as our facility, training, working out and coaching techniques," Baldwin said. "We just need outside help."

She continued, "We're at a minimum right now. There are six people on the team where a minimum of five is needed, so a larger team would benefit us. We're making progress, but if we had more funding, then we'd be doing a lot better."

Some students at Howard were surprised to know that the university has a bowling team.

"I wasn't aware that we had a bowling team," sophomore English and elementary education major Kyline Hanley said. "If they had tournaments, I think I would go every now and then. It's definitely something different aside from traditional sports, but it would probably be cool to watch."

Regardless of whether students come out to support the bowling team, the players will keep their energy raised in order to beat the competition.



Photo Courtesy of www.howard.edu

Though the bowling team does not receive much support from the student body, they look to themselves for encouragement.

Baldwin said the team's goals are to, "Put our name out there."

She added, "We deserve equal publicity, as do all the sports. Our actions aren't based off of our support. We make up the lack of support within our own team."

This doesn't mean that the team doesn't care if students come out to support them. Rather, the teams does its best to support itself.

"Bowling is a game of skill, but it's also a

mental game," McCall said. "We can't talk to the other team, so we do different cheers for when we get a strike or a spare, even if we're doing bad just to mess with the other team. Right now we don't have all the support, but I'm the team's biggest cheerleader."

The bowling team ends its season March 8 with the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championship in East Brunswick, N.J.

## Bowling Team Q&A: Alesyn McCall

BY MAKULA DUNBAR  
Contributing Writer

The Hilltop sat down with rookie bowler Alesyn McCall to discuss the ins & outs of the university's little known bowling team. The sophomore film major explains how she became an avid bowler and why bowling is better than most sports.

**How long have you been bowling?**

I've been bowling for about a year now.

**What made you become interested in bowling for Howard's team?**

Well, my dad used to bowl in the league and when I had this one job, he would ask me if I wanted to go bowling, and that's something I used to do to just clear my mind.

It's just something I got used to doing like a couple times out of the week. So when I found out Howard had a team, I thought it would be fun to be a part of because it was relaxing.

**What would you say makes bowling better than most sports?**

It's special and unique because people don't look at it as a sport, but when you get into competitive bowling, you really understand what a serious sport it is. People really devote time, energy and real skill to the game. It requires a lot of skill that goes unnoticed.

**What would you rather do than get a gutter ball on the last set of a game?**

Fail a test, just because it's so embarrassing. If you fail a test, that's your business, but when all the pressure is on and everyone's counting on you, a gutter ball is embarrassing. Luckily I'm not the anchor, so I'm never the last person to throw the last ball to conclude a game.

**What's the weirdest thing you've heard as punishment for getting a gutter ball, but in any situation on the HU team?**

I've heard of some embarrassing things like barking like a dog or falling out on the floor...that's pretty much it.

**What's one word to describe the HU women's bowling team?**

I would say improving. We definitely have a good solid group of people who really love the sport and who are committed and want to see Howard's bowling team take it to the next level.

**Is there anything that you hate about practice?**

I hate that it's not like hype. In tournaments, you have other schools there and there's a lot of noise. When I'm at practice, it's just the team of six people. Nobody's really screaming and you don't cheer during practice.

**What are your best and worst scores?**

My best score is a 210. My worst score is a 97. That's pretty bad, but that happened when I was a beginner.

**What comes to mind when you hear each of these words:**



Photo Courtesy of www.howard.edu

Sophomore rookie bowler Alesyn McCall

**Strike**  
Greatness, congratulations

**Competition**  
Ready, fun, domination

**Disco**  
Excitement

**"Flavor of Love" season 3**  
Embarrassment, cancellation.

**Bowling alley**  
Good times.

**Team**  
Support, encouragement, dedication.

## SCOREBOARD

### UPCOMING GAMES

03/1/08

Women's Basketball  
North Carolina A&T  
St.  
Home @ 2 p.m.

Men's Basketball  
North Carolina A&T  
St.  
Home @ 4 p.m.

Softball  
UNC Wilmington  
(CofC Invitational)  
10 a.m.  
Charleston, S.C.

3/2/08

Softball  
UNC Wilmington (CofC  
Invitational)  
10 a.m.  
Charleston, S.C.

03/2/08 contd.

Men's Tennis  
North Carolina  
5 p.m.  
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Women's Lacrosse  
Niagra  
Home @ 1 p.m.

03/3/08

Women's Basketball  
Norfolk St.  
Home @ 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball  
Norfolk St.  
Home @ 8 p.m.

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## Christina's Corner

BY CHRISTINA M. WRIGHT  
Layout Editor

There's always so much talk of Americans being unhealthy and overweight, and it's getting worse and worse for each new generation. Well, I finally have decided to make a life change.

On my recent trip to Mexico, I was able to lose 30 lbs. Since returning, I have returned to my old ways and gained back 10 of that. I learned a lot about how American health is affected by daily habits.

Americans don't walk. Howard has a shuttle that goes three blocks. Each morning and afternoon, students wait for up to 30 minutes for the shuttle to take them up to campus. In Mexico, and many other countries, it would be absurd.

These people walk 30 minutes to work, school and clubs, even if it means going up a hill. In my quest for good health, I will be boycotting the shuttles and taxis — unless it's unsafe to walk. Even the small walks to the Metro.

Now, don't get me wrong. Mexicans aren't the healthiest people alive. Sugar and bread are part of their diet. But one thing that helps with their diet is that fruit is promoted everywhere. Street vendors usually carry fruits and aqua fresas (fresh juice from fruit). It's fast food — usually full of bad carbs.

While there, I also ate five or six times a day. When I first arrived, it was so weird and foreign. Americans, especially students, are usually so busy running around that eating every few hours is forgotten.

This leads to the next issue of American health versus other countries: stress. One third of Americans have "extreme stress," the American Psychological Association says.

According to the manager of my new gym, stress releases cortisol hormones into the body. Cortisol basically triggers glucose release into the bloodstream and stops a whole lot of systems from functioning correctly.

Yep, that's right. All this running around Howard students do trying to become the next GEO of a Fortune 500 company and a community activist without giving a thought to their stress levels could be killing them. In other places, relaxing is part of the daily routine.

It has done this country well to be competitive. It's not a bad attribute to have to be competitive and to want so much, but it is most definitely not healthy to never take time to relax. Therefore, each day, I will be taking an hour break just to relax and do something that I feel like doing that is not work, organization, or school-related.

The last change for health that I will be making this semester is smoking. It is no longer a secret that I have picked up a really bad habit while in Mexico. I have joined the 45 million Americans who smoke. Someone once said that was unhealthy and uncool — I think that was that duck.

So, Howard, join me in this quest to kick some bad habits and create some new healthier ones. Walk to campus. Don't be too busy to eat. And by George, those of y'all in the Howard community who smoke, let it go.

If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to leave them at [meccanisms@gmail.com](mailto:meccanisms@gmail.com)

## He Said... She Said

Viewpoints from Both Sides of the Gender Divide

For the sake of a more polarized argument, I will be assuming the "he-man, no-girls-allowed" role. So without any further ado, ahem...

Chivalry is a model of conduct stemming from medieval times, knightly valor and honor. (So, basically it's an Anglo construct, but that's an entirely different conversation.) This model of conduct was an unwritten set of rules outlining how to treat women.

Based on this standard, women were subject to certain entitlements based on their gender. At that time, and throughout history, women were deemed the weaker sex and labeled as inferior to men. Due to their lower social status, women were **entitled** to certain things because it was generally accepted that they could not do things for themselves or could not do so as well as a man. In other words, all women were seen as frail, helpless damsels in distress and men were their knights in shining armor.

So here we sit in 2008, and I doubt any of the independent women at Howard University or elsewhere would claim to be inferior to men. So why is there such an outcry for a system that operates off of the premise that women are not as capable as men?

Often, when we look at these social standards and gender roles of that time, only chivalry is examined in reference to entitlements. But that is only half of the story, only one of the "C's." I'm talking about chauvinism — male chauvinism to be more specific.

Male chauvinism, the belief that males are superior to females, goes hand-in-hand with chivalry. If you think this is an outlandish statement, then clearly you've been reading this without an open mind, and I would direct you to start again from the top. I digress.

Chivalry, coupled with male chauvinism, was the norm that set up models such as the expectation of a man paying for dinner, but every other night of the week, the woman was expected to have dinner on the table when her man arrived home from work. Also, men were expected to give up their seats to women on public transportation, just as long as they were not on their way to the polls because women weren't allowed to vote back then. And of course, it was customary for a man to walk on the street side of the sidewalk because it would be just awful if a car splashed a young lady's dress and she had to get it cleaned. A woman might have also had to wash out the bloodstains from her dress because her husband hit her last night. Yes, beating your wife was also socially acceptable and legal throughout much of history.

Now I'm not advocating these chauvinistic behaviors. I don't think anyone should be disenfranchised, and I'm firmly against domestic abuse. All I'm doing is just showing you the parallels.

I do believe that there is a place for chivalry in modern times, but its role should not be seen the same. In an age when we are rapidly moving toward equality of the sexes, certain things need to be reexamined. Some aspects of chivalry like honor, politeness, courteousness and hospitality should remain in our modern culture, but nothing should persist solely on tradition.

"It is also tradition that times must and always do change my friend." — Prince Akeem (Yes, I quoted "Coming to America." You're welcome.)

This week's issue:

## Chivalry

by Joshua Thomas & Jada Smith

Maybe it's because I was raised in the South, or because I grew up seeing great examples of strong black men. Or maybe just because I know right from wrong...but I've come to value and expect chivalry, in all forms, from men. Men are supposed to open the door for a woman when entering a building or getting in and out of a car, carry her bags when traveling, give up their seat if a lady is standing and pay for the evening when out on a date. Call me old fashioned. Call me crazy. But that is what young women are taught to expect from a man.

Fast forward to 2008 as a college sophomore living in Meridian Hill Hall. Any given day when riding a packed shuttle to and from campus, all the boys could be sitting down and all the women standing up trying desperately to grab on to the poles for balance without dropping their purses as the shuttle driver jerks around corners.

When, exactly, did chivalry die? Where did it go?

Not to say that women have been suffering, in any way, due to the lack of common courtesy from our male counterparts. But it is a part of the slowly dying cultural aspect of our society. No, we do not **need** you to do anything for us. It would just be nice for you to show some consideration and respect for women. This new phenomenon that has made chivalry obsolete concerns me for future generations. If no one is teaching the young men how to properly treat women, how, exactly, will they treat your future daughter or granddaughter?

Not to say that opening doors and pulling out chairs before a woman sits is the end-all-be-all in determining whether a man is good or not, but where will it go from here?

Could it be a slow progression away from the generation of men who were taught to properly court women are dying off and we're moving toward the generation of men who learned how to treat women from BET Uncut?

Their ideas of courting women are creating an illusion of someone who is so rich, powerful and respected that he doesn't even have to treat you right. He can say and do whatever he wants, and he'll still have a plethora of women to choose from.

Maybe we can blame the lack of modern day chivalry on a bigger problem. If there's no man in the house and a young boy is being raised by his grandmother, where will he get his values from? Sure, grandma may be doing her best to teach him how to be respectful, but without a male to model after, is it really effective? If the only guy I see is 50 Cent on TV throwing money in the air and pouring alcohol all over women, who am I more likely to model after, Grandma or 50 Cent?

Maybe I digress. We are all grown, college students who come from different backgrounds and upbringings and who value different morals. I understand that we weren't all raised the same way. It's not that women hold men up to unrealistic standards. It's just something that we would appreciate. Let's put it this way: if you find it too hard to open my door or give up your seat, then I will likewise find it too hard to cook or "cater" to you.

Submit your topics for discussion to [meccanisms@gmail.com](mailto:meccanisms@gmail.com).

## ... And I Wonder...

Do you ever sit back and question what goes on in this crazy, mixed-up world of ours? We do, and because of that we've decided to compile a list of those things that make us wonder each week.

1. Did you bust your butt on the ice last week? That sucks.
2. Why are there so many people running for undergraduate trustee?
3. Are you sad you're not going to Charter Day dinner? You should be. The food is really good.
4. How'd you like standing in that line for Latex? Was it worth it?
5. Where do the geese go during the day?
6. Did Diddy Sean Combs ruin "A Raisin in the Sun?"
7. How do you feel about Beyoncé playing Etta James on the big screen?
8. Did you know the Punchout used to serve alcohol?
9. Are you one of those people who will be leaving Howard to see a bunch of Howard people in Miami for Spring Break?
10. What black man do you know who can whoop a white lady's tail and not go to jail? Obama!

Is there anything that makes you wonder or do you have any comments? Hit us up at [meccanisms@gmail.com](mailto:meccanisms@gmail.com).

## THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY...

### Questions:

1. In 1870, Hiram R. Revels was the first black U.S. senator and first black representative in Congress sworn in. What state did he represent?
2. What civil rights leader was ordained as a minister on Feb. 25, 1948?
3. Who beat Sonny Liston to become the world heavyweight boxing champ on Feb. 25, 1964?
4. Who started Negro History Week on Feb. 25, 1926?
5. A race riot took place on Feb. 25, 1946 in what U.S. state?

- Answers:
1. Mississippi
  2. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
  3. Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali)
  4. Dr. Carter G. Woodson
  5. Tennessee (Columbia)

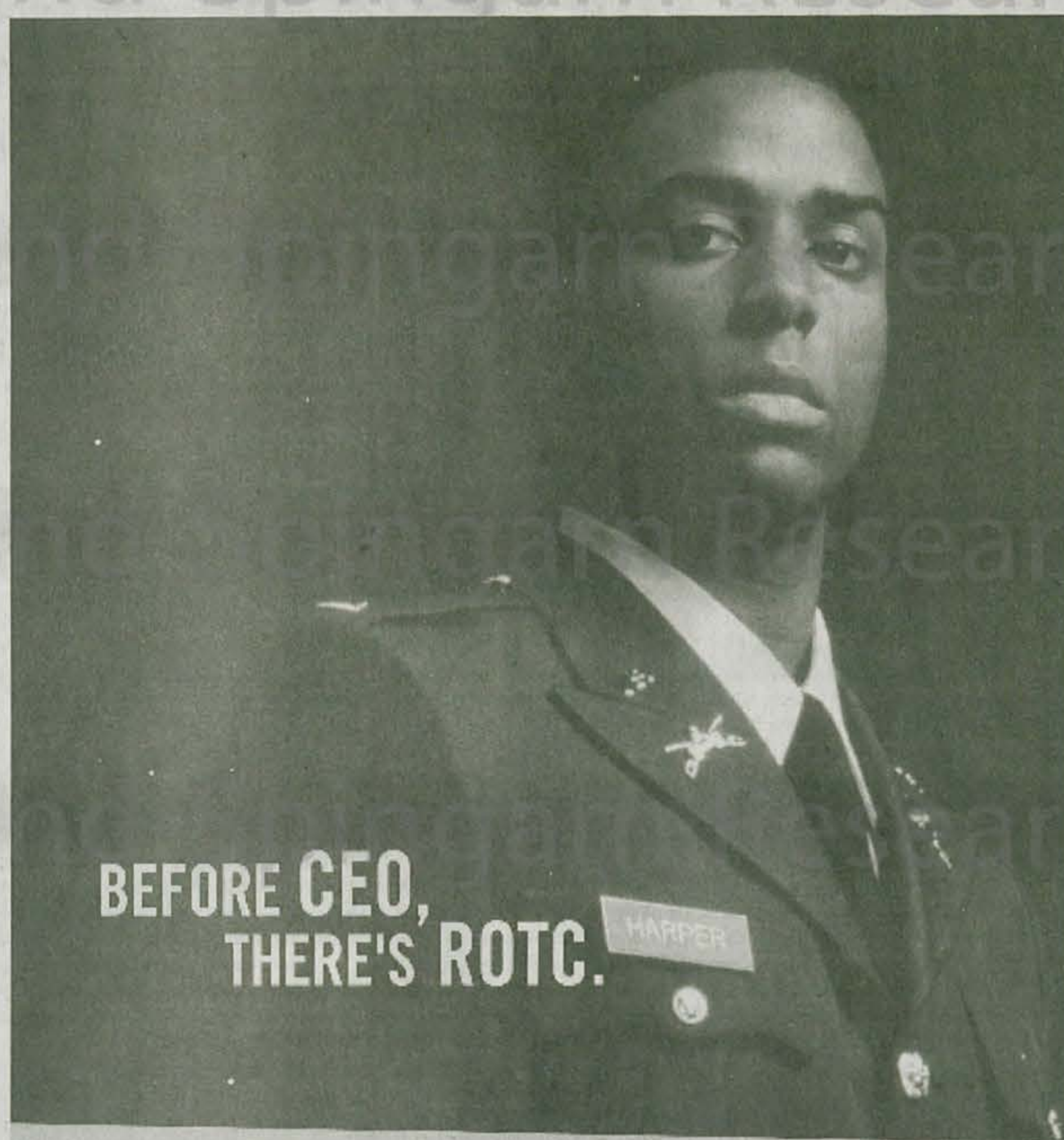
Facts courtesy of [www.blackfacts.com](http://www.blackfacts.com)  
Compiled by Joshua Thomas, Managing Editor

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Candidates Must Reevaluate Priorities

By Lawrence E. Ball

Much can be said about Howard's student political atmosphere. We all know that as March 6 grows near, the intensity and frequency of hearing rhetoric and seeing paraphernalia will drastically increase, engulfing our campus with high hopes and pipe dreams. I am by no means a pessimist, but as I read the literature, attend the speak outs, evaluate the standpoints and weigh it against what Howard University really needs, I get disgruntled and say "there is a 75 percent chance of HUSA completely sucking in 2008-2009."

I was a freshman in fall of 2005 — I was a part of HUSA during what some call the Byronian era (Byron Stewart and April Harley were HUSA president and vice president during the 2005-2006 academic year). To their credit, charisma, conscience, and scope ward off revisionist accounts of inaction. Byron and April were the truest types of leaders. Through their outgoing natures, an authentic approachability was established, yet to be duplicated.

Student politics at Howard have drastically evolved. When last year's election results came in, I thought that it was a changing of the guard. HUSA, in all of its facets, is the worst it has ever been. Albeit the executive branch has performed on a stellar level (*The Hilltop* gave it an A-), the balancing agents — judiciary, legislative and student council alike — need to re-think how they do business.

At the first speak out I attended (because of work, the second one hosted), I saw no passion — the platforms however, were enough to make my personal evaluations. I hold communication as the number one impediment to progress in an organization. Howard University and the Washington, D.C. community. A student is more likely to receive a party flier coming out of the Administration building than a fact sheet about validation. Moreover, the university's communication model isn't implemented at all levels. People are missing out.

Student life needs a communication plan that acts as a starting point for "the logistics of HUSA's change," that our candidates stand to implement. The following would suffice it: 1) a universal calendar for all student-run events, 2) annual publications highlighting past events and benchmarks at all levels of student life pertinent to the average student, 3) a program to visually communicate the structure

of the student association which includes committees that student leaders sit upon, the chain of command and interrelationships between Residence Life, Student Services, the athletics department and the Office of Student Activities.

Another touchy area was the status of technology at Howard. I was deterred to hear Abimbola George say that there is "a gap between ISAS and HUSA." Yes, the e-mail services don't work, but there is no gap. At the forefront, my issues are with the University's spending on smart rooms, laboratories and the number of computers available in our library system. ISAS itself has a game plan — no candidate has yet to ask them about it.

Later, I listened to Nick Owen's story about the need to restore activism to Howard's historical culture. No. I want activism at Howard to evolve into something more effective. Strength is strength. The same strength needed to march on the National Mall can be used to get a good GPA, complete the application, edit the resume and pass the interview to get into Congress, the White House, or the Supreme Court; get employed and disseminate information. Don't restore Howard to its classic activism — we don't have to fight the same way we used to.

In this week's article, Owen was quoted as saying "we didn't do the research just to run a campaign...we did the research to run a better Howard University." I would argue that his camp didn't do the right type of research.

No candidate mentioned the need to promote academic integrity. While I agree with Chris Caldwell that student rights need to be emboldened, that no student should be viewed as "guilty until proven innocent," I feel as if the incident used to introduce the issue should have sparked an idea to collaborate with faculty and staff for academic integrity. Cheating is the biggest problem at Howard. When a student cheats, they degrade the legacy of Howard, they insult the students who arrive energy-drained by studying the content to take the test, they undermine a professor's role and a recruiter's ability to assess the talent pool. Cheating makes a Howard degree as light as air when its bearer arrives on the job unable to perform.

Howard students have nothing to "Take Back" but a lot to manage. The biggest responsibility that a student has is academic performance. A university

exists for the sake of learning; capitalism made the American University a bastion of technical training and human capital development. As I regard all of the candidates as good friends and colleagues, I hope that they (and of course you all) evaluate HUSA's true priorities:

- Integrating International Student Services and university-wide organizations into the planning and organizing of student government, leadership and employment (including alumni outreach, the Howard University Homecoming Steering Committee, Special Project Funding from General Assembly, and Community Services)

- Lobbying government for special work permits for Howard University's international student body

- Work with the university to purchase, develop and subsidize closer and affordable off-campus student housing to ward off increased rent expenditures induced by gentrification as well as decrease the cost of commuting

- Collaborate with the Office of University Advancement and Alumni Relations to effectively gauge a communication and fundraising program that features the undergraduate and graduate student populace as key stakeholders

- Work with the department of Asset Management and Real Estate Development to provide student insight and concerns to the redevelopment of Wonder Plaza, The Northern Campus and other properties at large

- Open lines of communication with Auxiliary Services to jointly conduct market and product development research for entities such as the Howard University Bookstore

- Create a student-centered department that actively promotes alumni wealth building (whether by employment, entrepreneurship or investing) by evaluating and recommending improvements to the Office of Career Services, Center for Professional Development (School of Business) and the Institute for Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and Innovation

- Create a transparent and effective communications model for all elements of student life

The choice is truly yours. On March 6, you decide.

Lawrence E. Ball  
The Hilltop  
Online Editor

Daily Sudoku

Directions:

Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

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Come to our next budget meeting

MONDAY @ 7 P.M.

WEST TOWERS (PLAZA LEVEL)

THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 85th year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the The Hilltop Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

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Y.O.U

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FOR

UNDER-GRADUATE TRUSTEE

MARCH 6TH ON BISONWEB

### Tuition Scholarship

If you will be a Junior or Senior during the school year 2008-2009 have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA, and demonstrated community involvement, then you are eligible for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Nellie M. Quander Memorial Scholarship. Applications are available at the Founder's Library, Office of Financial Aid and the Information Desk in the Blackburn Center. The application deadline is Wednesday, March 5, 2008.

### HU Homecoming 2008

*Eden...  
An Epoch of Emittance*

### The 2008 Homecoming Steering Committee Staff

Application deadline has been extended to Friday, February 29, 2008 at 5:00pm in the Office of Student Activities, Blackburn Suite 117.

Applications are available on the Howard University Student Activities website as well as available for pick up in the Office of Student Activities. For more information, please email huh2008eden@gmail.com

### Apartment for rent in Mt. Rainer, MD.

Apt. has central air, heat, and security system. Seeking a quiet nonsmoking. Female. Apt. is study environment, no drugs or parties. 15 minutes from Howard, bus line and metro is walking distance. Just remodeled kitchen and painted apartment. A six month lease is required. \$750 a month and a \$450 security deposit. All utilities included. Contact Eddie at 3013358734

### Joy Lindsay

### Declaration of Truth

for Undergraduate Trustee

Vote March 6, 2008

"Discover the Truth with Joy Lindsay as your future Undergraduate Trustee"

### Interested in Volunteering with the Declaration of Truth Campaign???

Email Joy Lindsay at joylindsay@gmail.com

Include name, classification, and t-shirt size.

"Discover the Truth with Joy Lindsay as your future Undergraduate Trustee"

### Alternative Spring Break

2008 General Body Meeting March 2, 2008

Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel Check-In 3:30pm

The Ladies of Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated present:

### UPLIFTING LADIES

A Week of Empowerment for the Black Woman

Unify

Friday, February 29, 2008

Working together with our brothers to build a stronger community School of Architecture Auditorium 7:08 PM Casual Attire

All are welcomed to attend!

Vote Leea Allen for Undergraduate Trustee, March 6, 2008 on Bison Web.

Visit www.allen-4trustee.com.

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### Sitters Wanted.

\$10 or more per hour.

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www.studentsitters.com